



ASIAN CANADIAN THEATRE COMPANY

MEDIA RELEASE

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fu-GEN Theatre Company presents a double bill of Vietnamese Canadian plays by youth, FINE CHINA and A PERFECT BOWL OF PHO produced by Saigon Lotus and Hotake Theatre Company with the generous support of Factory Theatre

FINE CHINA & A PERFECT BOWL OF PHO by JULIE PHAN & NAM NGUYEN

Toronto, ON – January 7, 2019 – Two college-aged sisters reunite in the wake of their father’s death, while a college student cum playwright cum narcissist decides to pen a genre-bending musical about everyone’s favourite Vietnamese noodle dish. These are the worlds of **Fine China** by **Julie Phan** and **A Perfect Bowl of Pho** by **Nam Nguyen**, an unlikely pair of comedies from former students of Woodlands High School and current students at McGill and U of T.

fu-GEN Theatre Company is proud to present this double bill of work by two extraordinary youth. In its debut at the 2018 Fringe Festival, **Fine China** took home the **Teenjur Award** for teen-approved show. Meanwhile, **A Perfect Bowl of Pho** won Best Production at the Hart House Drama Festival in 2017 and went on to play to sold out houses at the 2018 **Paprika Festival**.

As a company, fu-GEN has always been dedicated to representing the Asian Canadian experience and fostering talent within the Asian Canadian artistic community. However, that representation has been historically weighted in favour of larger groups within the diaspora. In a season that started with the co-production of **Vietgone** by Vietnamese American playwright **Qui Nguyen** at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg, we are continuing our celebration of Vietnamese stories and emerging voices with these two plays by Vietnamese Canadian youth.

FINE CHINA and A PERFECT BOWL OF PHO

January 23 – February 10, 2019 at Factory Studio Theatre | 125 Bathurst St.

Written by Julie Phan (FINE CHINA) and Nam Nguyen (PHO)

Produced by Saigon Lotus and Hotake Theatre Company

Presented by fu-GEN Theatre Company with the generous support of Factory Theatre

Tickets are **\$30 general admission | \$25 advance with code EARLY** available online at factorytheatre.ca or by phone at 416.504.9971

“Phan is a promising writer whose work shines..” – Glenn Sumi, NOW Magazine

FINE CHINA by Julie Phan

Directed by Julie Phan | **Featuring** Nam Nguyen, Nightingale Nguyen, Julie Phan | **Sound Design** by Colwyn Alletson | **Lighting Design** by Abby Palmer

A PERFECT BOWL OF PHO by Nam Nguyen

Directed by Gianni Sallesse | **Featuring** Meghan Aguirre, Kenley Ferris-Ku, Max Gu, Sai Lian Macikunas, Victoria Ngai, Nam Nguyen, Justin Park, Jacob Peng, Lucinda Qu, Brendan Rush, Kenzie Tsang | **Musicians:** Randy Chang, Brendan Rogers, Rena Seeger, Keshav Sharma-Jaitly, Charlotte Wong-Labow, Joey Zhuang | **Music Direction** by Kevin Vuong | **Composed** by Wilfred Moeschter & Nam Nguyen | with **additional music** by Sam Clark | **Lighting Design** by Abby Palmer | **Costume Design** by Bailey Hoy

About Saigon Lotus

Nestled within the heart of Toronto’s most distinctive multicultural neighbourhoods (Chinatown, Toronto), Saigon Lotus serves fresh, authentic Vietnamese content to hungry audiences. Based off traditional principles and fused with the experiences of the Asian diaspora, Saigon Lotus offers a fresh remix to all your favourite classics like: ‘you are a disappointment to your family,’ ‘why you eat out all the time, waste the money, eat at home,’ and ‘honey, go put on jacket.’ You can be assured that Saigon Lotus never sacrifices the quality or service you love.”

About Hotake Theatre Company

Hotake Theatre is a new student theatre group at Victoria College in the University of Toronto, which produces and facilitates the development of theatrical & musical works led by artists who identify with the Asian and Pacific Islander diaspora. Its aim is to promote a diversity of Asian narratives, whether written by established professional playwrights or local students, both within the university and in the wider Toronto theatre community

About fu-GEN Theatre

fu-GEN Theatre Company is Toronto’s leading not-for-profit theatre arts organization dedicated to the Asian Canadian lens. We are devoted to providing a home for the Asian Canadian theatre artist, nurturing their voices and producing works of the highest artistic caliber that explore the Asian Canadian experience. For 16 years, we have been carving out space in the Canadian cultural landscape and cultivating platforms to bring these voices to the forefront, creating spaces for our audiences to see their experiences reflected on stage. We are the premiere hub of Asian Canadian theatre artists, and a leader in cultural programming.

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